

ELEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Brooklyn Union for Christian Work

---

ORGANIZED, NOVEMBER, 1866.

INCORPORATED, JUNE, 1871.

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531 FULTON STREET, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

DECEMBER, 1877.

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DECEMBER, 1877.

OFFICE

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(1847)

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## BOARD OF MANAGERS.

|                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| ROBERT FOSTER,   | <i>President.</i>             |
| JOS. R. BLOSSOM, | <i>First Vice-President.</i>  |
| SETH LOW,        | <i>Second Vice-President.</i> |
| HENRY R. PUTNAM, | <i>Secretary.</i>             |
| JOSEPH LYMAN,    | <i>Treasurer.</i>             |

## ADDITIONAL DIRECTORS.

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| D. B. HALSTEAD,     | } 1880. |
| SYLVESTER SWAIN,    |         |
| ISAAC H. CARY, JR., |         |

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| EDGAR W. CROWELL, | } 1879. |
| STEPHEN H. CAMP,  |         |
| A. W. HUMPHREYS,  |         |

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| ALFRED P. PUTNAM, | } 1878. |
| JOEL W. STEARNS,  |         |
| WM. C. GARDNER,   |         |

|                   |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| GEO. T. CLARK,    | <i>Superintendent.</i>           |
| WM. B. WADSWORTH, | <i>Assistant Superintendent.</i> |

# *DIRECTORY OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.*

|                              |                                                 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| J. R. BLOSSOM, . . . . .     | 272 Gates Avenue.                               |
| Rev. S. H. CAMP, . . . . .   | 476 Washington Ave.                             |
| I. H. CARY, Jr., . . . . .   | 149 Amity Street.                               |
| G. T. CLARK, . . . . .       | 56 Greene Avenue.                               |
| E. W. CROWELL, . . . . .     | 97 McDonough Street.                            |
| W. A. DOUGLASS, . . . . .    | 20 Smith Street.                                |
| ROBERT FOSTER, . . . . .     | 290 Adelphi Street.                             |
| WM. C. GARDNER, . . . . .    | 91 Hicks Street.                                |
| D. B. HALSTEAD, . . . . .    | 335 Washington Ave.                             |
| A. W. HUMPHREYS, . . . . .   | 71 Columbia Heights.                            |
| SETH LOW, . . . . .          | 3 Pierrepont Place.                             |
| JOSEPH LYMAN, . . . . .      | { 34 Remsen Street.<br>{ 31 Burling Slip, N. Y. |
| Rev. A. P. PUTNAM, . . . . . | 263 Hicks Street.                               |
| H. R. PUTNAM, . . . . .      | 18 Monroe Place.                                |
| J. W. STEARNS, . . . . .     | 64 First Place.                                 |
| SYLVESTER SWAIN, . . . . .   | 122 Columbia Heights.                           |
| WM. B. WADSWORTH, . . . . .  | 285 Schermerhorn St.                            |

# ANNUAL MEETING.

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November 25, 1877.

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THE Union met in the Church of the Savior, corner of Pierrepont Street and Monroe Place, at 7:30 P.M., Robert Foster, President, occupying the chair.

Rev. Dr. A. P. Putnam, the pastor of the church, conducted the opening exercises, which were introduced with an anthem sung by the choir. A passage from the Epistle to the Romans was then read, and prayer offered by Dr. Putnam.

Prof. Foster congratulated the friends of the Union that, notwithstanding the notice of the meeting was so late and limited, and the weather so unfavorable, the attendance was large. He then asked attention to a report from one to whose wise and faithful service of four years the Union is largely indebted for its present wonderful prosperity. Mr. Isaac H. Cary, Jr., thus called upon, submitted the Treasurer's Annual Statement, which was received with marked approval for its good showing of the work and of the financial condition of the Union.

The President next read the Report of the Directors, which was followed with brief addresses by Mr. Seth Low, Rev. Dr. Putnam, Hon. Ripley Ropes, and Rev. John W. Chadwick. The meeting, which closed with a benediction by Dr. Putnam was, in accordance with a resolution previously offered, adjourned until Monday evening, November 26th, for the election of officers and additional directors.

ADJOURNED ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER  
26, 1877.

The meeting was called to order, and its object stated by the President. Mr. Joseph B. Blossom, Chairman of the Nominating Committee of the Board, presented the ticket which, after the balloting, was declared by tellers Cary and Swain unanimously elected. The Board of Directors, as constituted for the ensuing year, may be found on another page.

After remarks by President Foster and Dr. Putnam on the necessity and the prospects of a new building suited to the purposes of the Union, the meeting adjourned.

# PRESIDENT FOSTER'S REPORT.

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MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE UNION : The Board of Managers invite you to-night to review the work of a busy year. It is your prerogative to decide whether what has been accomplished during the past twelve months for the city we love and the humanity we share, vindicates for the Union for Christian Work the right to be, and even perchance justifies certain claims to a larger life and a wider sphere.

## OBJECTS OF THE UNION.

The general aims of the Union for at least eight years past are not unknown to the public. To increase intelligence among the adult masses by maintaining a reading-room and library, free to all ; to offer to the homeless, the friendless, the forlorn, the tempted, a safe retreat for leisure hours, and attractions which, while wholesome, are sufficient to outrival the fatal fascination of liquor saloon and gambling hall ; to cultivate the mind and improve the morals of neglected youth by bringing them, in class exercises, in kindly contact with pure, philanthropic, devoted men and women ; to relieve the destitution of those of the poor who deserve not the poverty which distresses them ; to provide employment to those who do not ask the bread of alms, but only a chance to live by honest work. These are the chief ends sought by the Union, and in all these directions some excellent service has been done since our last meeting. But consider a single branch of the enterprise :

## THE READING-ROOM.

Do any doubt that this is a powerful lever and conservator of the public morals ? Let such make a single afternoon visit, and observe the appearance and occupation of the hundreds who are

daily drawn to the room, and all doubt will be dispelled. We therefore urge all who would promote good order, all who would level up the moral tone of the community, all earnest friends of temperance, from the Francis Murphys at the extreme of the left wing to the Howard Crosbys at the extreme of the right, to make such a visit, to investigate for their own satisfaction, and then to invest for the Union's support.

If by reason of the apathy of the public, or the infidelity of public functionaries, or both, wholesome laws are openly violated (you all know that they are), and the proprietors of three thousand liquor saloons (one third of them the vilest of grogeries) are suffered as a self-perpetuating oligarchy, in what sore need does the city stand of reading-rooms and libraries like these of the Union for Christian Work !

The community is divided on the subject of prohibition by law ; divided on the subject of total abstinence, and yet since it is well known that hundreds if not thousands become drunkards every year, to the solitary individual who is permanently reclaimed to habits of sobriety, the most good is accomplished by those means which look to the prevention of intemperance. Not he who depicts in the presence of the sot, whose will-power is hopelessly lost, the career of the drunkard in all its hideous deformity, but rather he who portrays the grace and glory and gladness of a life of true temperance. Not he (though the Lord will abundantly reward him) who as a temperance worker mans the life-saving station, but rather he who is attached to the signal service. Not he who curses the drunkard and the drunkard maker, but rather he who makes it pleasant as well as possible for the ill-favored of fortune to live a temperate life. Not even he (I am with such, though, with all my heart) who seeks to shut the dramshop, but rather he who opens the coffee-house and the reading-room. These, these are the reformers whose word and work most conserve the good and prevent the evil in the world. Such rooms as ours in Fulton Street do effectually close the tippling houses to all men and boys who learn to prefer the delight and profit of reading and harmless recreation to the debasing and destructive excitement which is the unfailing issue of strong drink and fast companionship. We, therefore, emphasize the significance of this one record of the Union's history, the maintenance for eleven years, chiefly for the benefit of what are known as the working classes, of a respectably good and an

absolutely free reading-room and library, almost the only one of its kind in a city of more than half a million of people.

#### EVENING CLASSES FOR BOYS.

Within the past eight years, nearly six thousand lads have been connected with our evening schools, and it must be that this vast host of boys, dissuaded, for the time, from street haunts and practices, have received through the refining and purifying associations of the class-room, impressions which will follow and bless them to the end of life; impressions which will make them less dangerous, if not positively useful, members of the community. A traveler visiting Sweden noticed the care for neglected children, who are taken from the streets and placed in special schools, and inquired if it was not costly. He received the suggestive answer: "Yes, it is costly but not dear. We, the Swedes, are not rich enough to let a child grow up in ignorance, misery, and crime to become afterward a scourge to society, as well as a disgrace to himself." The President of the Police Board of Brooklyn remarked to me a few weeks since that the street boys of the age of 14 are, in some directions, the boldest and most dangerous class of criminals that curse the city. How wise, then, as a measure in the interests of economy and of safety as well as of philanthropy and Christianity, to subject these inchoate citizens, these immature men, if it be only for one hour out of the twenty-four, to influences which may reach and develop their better natures. The classes last season in penmanship, drawing, reading, spelling, and arithmetic were quite as full as was desired, and the teachers who have for several years devoted two evenings a week to this class work, have in some instances retained the same pupils from year to year, a fact significant of the enduring benefits conferred by these noble teachers on the children of their charge.

#### ENTERTAINMENTS.

There were given during the season two principal entertainments for boys. (1.) A stereopticon exhibition with an accompanying lecture, both interesting and instructive, by Rev. Mr. Jones, formerly a Brooklyn pastor. (2.) A Christmas dinner, preceded by speeches and music. The dinner was the liberal gift of Henry Bowring, Esq., whose thoughtful bounty brought Christmas cheer to more than two hundred souls and bodies. Another gentleman, whose name is well known in charitable as-

sociations, asked the privilege of furnishing each guest with a package of choice candy. Some are disposed to decry these and all similar entertainments for the poor, as extravagant, urging that they confer only evanescent benefit, and claiming that their authors are more sentimental than sensible; but to us, this seems a narrow view of a general and growing custom; for is it not true of most human beings that the happy hours of childhood project themselves almost continuously into the life of the man, making that life thereby the better, as well as the brighter? The County of New York appropriated last year \$20,000 to be distributed among such of the blind poor as were not otherwise provided for, and over three hundred presented themselves in response to notification, on July 30th, at the office of the Superintendent of Outdoor Poor. Among the afflicted who applied was a fair, sweet-faced German girl, just out of her teens. From her answers to the customary questions, it was learned that at seven years of age, a little playmate pointed a pistol at her, saying playfully, "Carry, I'll shoot you!" and pulling the trigger, discharged the pistol, and deprived her friend of sight. The question was asked Carrie, "Do you not think it would have been better for you if you had been born blind?" Her reply was instructive as it was pathetic. "Oh no," she said, "I am thankful for those seven years of sight. I can remember a great many things I saw during that time." Even so the memory of a joyous youth helps to light up the dark season that sooner or later must come to us all. A lecture on the "Potter's Wheel," by Mr. Benjamin Putnam, and an evening of readings by Professor R. R. Raymond, complete the list of entertainments under the auspices of the Union. Mr. Putnam's lecture, with its novel illustrations by a practical potter, proved highly interesting and instructive to an audience that crowded the chapel of the Polytechnic Institute. The readings by Professor Raymond, generously given in aid of our treasury, were listened to by a large gathering at the Academy of Music, and with the high order of satisfaction, which is the good fortune of all who spend an evening with this gifted reader.

### RELIEF WORK.

Early last winter, the suggestion was made to your Board of Directors to establish a depot of supplies, whence stores should be dispensed to the needy on orders from the Society for the

# Union for Christian Work.

ROBERT FOSTER, *President.*      H. R. PUTNAM, *Secretary.*      JOSEPH LYMAN, *Treasurer.*

GEO. T. CLARK, *General Superintendent and Manager of Guild Department.*

EDWIN A. CLARK, *Librarian.*

REV. B. H. MOORE, *Superintendent of Boys' Department.*

MRS. REBECCA SEAMAN, *Superintendent of Sewing School.*

MAIN BUILDING (in charge of E. A. CLARK), . . . 531 FULTON STREET.  
GUILD DEPOT (in charge of G. T. CLARK), . . . 59 SMITH STREET.  
SEWING SCHOOL HALL (over Central Market), . . . 637 FULTON STREET.

## APPEAL.

BROOKLYN, Dec. 22, 1877.

More than twenty religious societies are, through the Board of Directors or otherwise, connected with the Union for Christian Work, and the managers of the Union, as such, know neither sect nor party.

The undersigned do, therefore, earnestly and hopefully request the public to read the accompanying pamphlet. Therein, the branches of work, as indicated above, are fully explained, and their extent and importance plainly set forth. The new enterprise of a work-test in wood-yards is there defined; and a course of half-dime lectures for the people proposed. It does not, therefore, seem necessary to further urge here the claims of the Union on the wisely benevolent for support.

The managers of the Union are mainly seeking, not so much to relieve physical destitution and distress directly, as through their various agencies to enlighten the masses, to discourage vice in both youth and adults, and to encourage especially the virtue of industry.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS.

In view of the success already achieved, and of the larger opportunities for usefulness which are now so manifestly open before us, it is hoped that last year's subscribers will be induced to increase their subscriptions, and that many new names will be added to the honorable list.

The Union will decline, as heretofore, to undertake general relief work; but cases of need coming under the personal observation of our superintendents, or brought to their notice by the volunteer teachers or other friends of the Union, and vouched for as deserving, will, so far as possible, receive sympathy and assistance. The few cases thus relieved will be reported to the general agent of the "Society for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor."

For the limited purposes just explained, we respectfully solicit

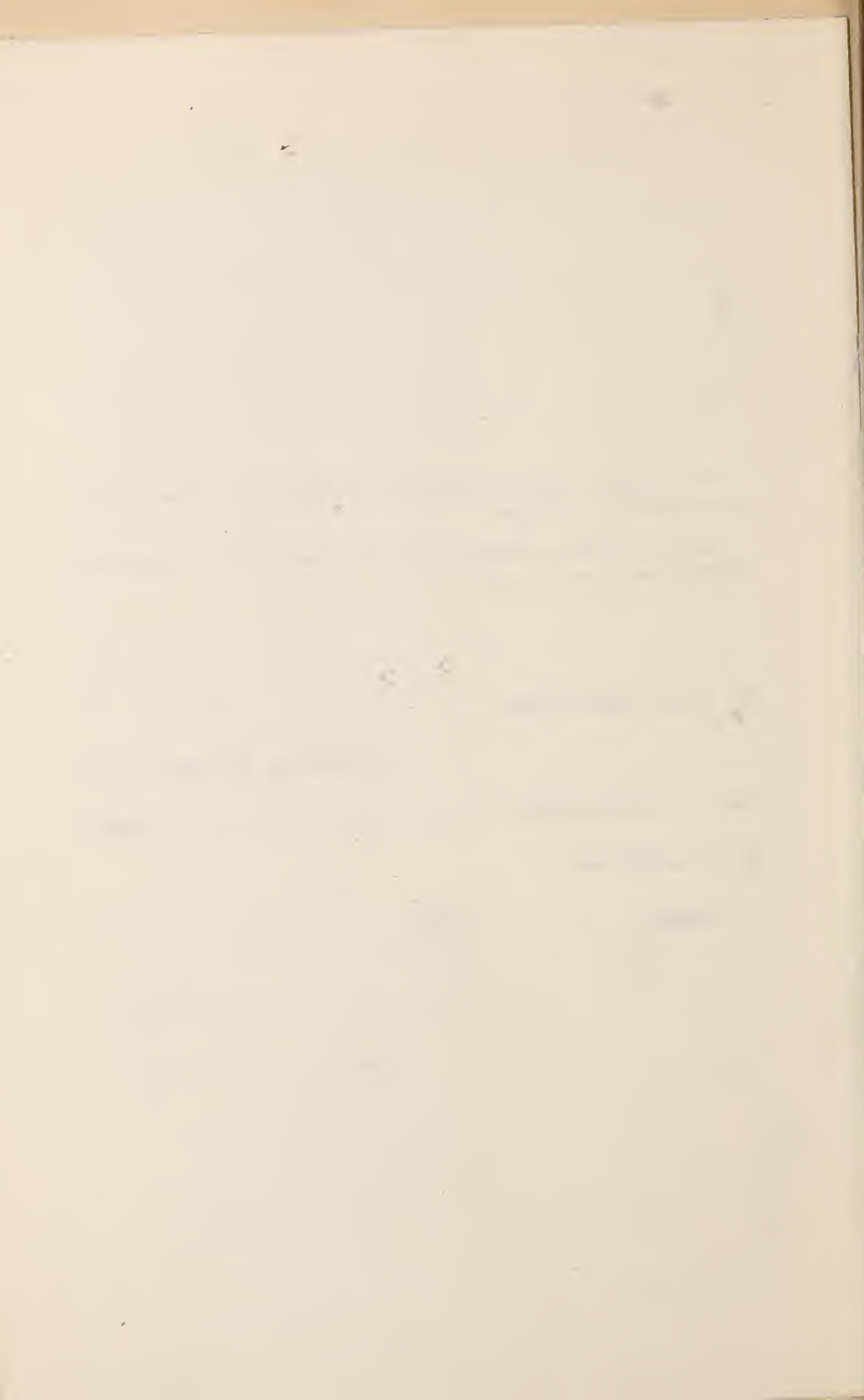
## DONATIONS

of flour, meal, provisions, coal; also clothing and boots and shoes, partly worn, and for either sex.

ROBERT FOSTER, *President.*

I. H. CARY, JR.,  
J. W. STEARNS, } *Committee.*  
D. B. HALSTEAD, }

(OVER.)



Improvement of the Condition of the Poor. There was, however, a failure to ratify an agreement to this end, and the charitable work of the Union was therefore conducted in a separate channel. Nevertheless so many cases of distress personally investigated by friends of the Union were referred to our Superintendent for relief, that it was deemed best to open a depot of supplies. This was done at No. 20 Smith street, and this special department of the Union, was by act of the society named "The Brooklyn Guild of the Union for Christian Work." Almost simultaneously with the opening of our depot occurred the memorable

#### BROOKLYN THEATRE FIRE.

This real tragedy, with hardly a parallel in the history of theatres, bereaved more than two hundred families, and left many of the mourning households utterly helpless. Nearly one half of these suffering families were visited by the officers or agents of the Union, to manifest sympathy, to determine the loss of each in means of support, and to proffer substantial aid. About \$1500 was collected by the Union for the benefit of those surviving sufferers who were found to be most needy; but as your Board of Directors learned, after a portion of this amount had been disbursed, that Mayor Schroeder, Dr. Putnam and their colleagues on the Finance Committee of the Fire Fund were making a systematic and thorough examination of all cases of suffering, \$1200 in cash was, by vote of your Board, contributed to the treasury of that Committee.

#### INDISCRIMINATE ALMSGIVING.

For the greater part of the fifteen centuries succeeding the birth of Christ, the church assumed the care of the poor. The charge was next transferred to the State Police. Subsequently to this, municipalities undertook the task, and now often, as in this State, the municipality and the county divide the responsibility. But from the beginning of the Christian Era to the present day, indiscriminate almsgiving, by associations and by individuals, has been one of the most prolific sources of evil to society. And in view of the injury which results to the community at large, but in greatest measure to the poor as a class, we have learned to look back with perhaps somewhat of admiration on the Poor Law system of Ireland as in operation centuries before the Christian Era began—a system

which punished both the giving of alms and begging the same as outlawry. The practice in Norway and Sweden is now quite similar. In the latter part of the sixteenth century, the laws of England punished those who begged, after refusing work, by branding, bond service, even death itself. Ten years ago, when London counted a population of only three millions, there was expended in charity alone, in that city \$45,000,000, an average of \$60 for every man sick and well, rich and poor ; and yet, after all this outlay, extreme poverty and dire wretchedness prevailed in large sections of London. More recent statistics for Brooklyn and New York do not make so appalling an exhibit, but it is probably no exaggeration of facts to state that \$1,000,000 is annually wasted, worse than wasted in what is called charity, as bestowed in these two cities: the greater portion of it on lazy and dishonest beggars.

It has been estimated that sixty-three per cent of those applying in New-York last year to the various sources of charity, were impostors. We know that there was much suffering among the poor of Brooklyn last winter, but we know as well that far more money was given away in charity than would have sufficed to keep all the destitute from serious discomfort. Certainly one half of those who have sought help from me as an officer of the Good Samaritan, or of the Union for Christian Work, did not deserve, if they did need help, and I have little doubt that the superintendents of the two associations would bear similar testimony.

What, now, in view of recent as well as remote history does the philanthropic student of social science suggest as likely to accomplish most in abating the gigantic evils of pauperism? Consider what chiefly produces and threatens to perpetuate these evils. Is it not indolence, ignorance, or cowardice in most almsgivers, which makes the profession of lying and lazy or shiftless beggars facile and profitable? At a recent convention in Connecticut, a minister who has observed and investigated much on the subject, gave it as his opinion that it takes only about three days to transform an honest hard working artisan into a lifelong irreclaimable tramp. Again, the permitted practice of repeating applications at one after another charitable association, is as pernicious as it is costly.

The reform, then, first in order, is the total abolition of almsgiving at the door or on the highway. And the step which

should next swiftly follow is the consolidation of all the benevolent societies into one organization; the various branch associations to maintain constant telegraphic communication with the Central Office, and such Central Office to keep the record of every case in which relief has been sought, the results of all investigations, and the date and amount of aid rendered. Instead of extending the area of charity aid, and including able bodied men as beneficiaries, a measure most unwisely urged by one of our own Commissioners of Charities lately at a Convention of Superintendents of the Poor, let us rather adopt as our only salvation some such heroic treatment as I have indicated. Thus only will the spread of pauperism be checked, and we be spared as a people the fate of Italy, in which country every third man met on the highway, presents himself as a beggar.

The managers of the Union being largely in sympathy with these views, have abandoned the purpose at one time cherished, of maintaining and steadily enlarging a general relief depot, and they now limit the aid extended to the few cases committed to them by friends of the Union, and vouched for, after thorough examination, as deserving.

### EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

Boys and girls, men and women, the number reaching an aggregate of hundreds, have within the year obtained permanent or temporary employment through the free agency of the Union. And almost never has any employer thus provided, expressed other than perfect satisfaction with the work and the workman.

Our Superintendent, Mr. G. T. Clark, in whom the Board has found a rare combination of sagacity and sympathy in dealing with applicants for relief, has for years cherished a vision of a

### WORK TEST

for such applicants. That vision he some time since managed to realize to a limited extent, but with most satisfactory results, by offering to able-bodied men asking aid the use of a buck and saw in the cellar of the Guild.

Different members of your board have also long sought to devise some practical method of relieving destitution without putting a premium on pauperism. Mr. R. D. Douglass, of the Children's Aid Society, summed up and stated the proposition

most admirably at our last anniversary: "High art in charity," he said, "is the way of helping people so that they will stay helped, and keep on helping themselves and others." True philanthropists, for example, are not those who are ready to exhaust their means to pay the rent of every delinquent tenant, but rather those whose sympathy suggests methods which enable the poor to live in decent homes. Of this style of philanthropy, the enterprise of our far-sighted fellow-citizen, Mr. A. T. White, is an eminent illustration. For by patient study of the Hill, the Peabody, and other plans of dwellings for the laboring classes, he has elaborated an improvement on them all (the Waterlow alone excepted). And further, and better, he has by wise and liberal outlay erected the buildings which make it possible for families of limited means to occupy healthy, comfortable and sufficiently secluded apartments.

There be a superabundance of theorists who plan to ameliorate, even to abolish the limitations, the temptations, the consequent immorality which make many of the poor of this city wretched, and some of them so dangerous to the common safety. But one benefactor like the Brooklyn tenement-house builder, who makes his enterprize a business success, and so sets the example which will be followed, accomplishes more for his fellow-man than a whole regiment of magnificent schemers.

The work test I have alluded to has at last taken such shape as to promise at least a temporary and partial solution of the problem of real relief.

Last year our Superintendent, as has been stated, invited all able-bodied men, who asked money or food, to saw wood for a compensation, in the cellar of the Guild, and the wood was disposed of always without loss. Next Mr. Clark opened a shoe shop to give employment to shoemakers who had neither shop nor work. Boots and shoes are now made and repaired at the Guild shop, at prices which insure a large patronage, especially among people of the slenderest means. Some customers are trusted; some are relieved entirely of the responsibility of paying.

#### WOOD YARD.

But within a few weeks a plan of relief, certainly as a temporary expedient the best so far projected, was devised by the Chairman of the Employment Committee, Mr. Seth Low, from whom you will this evening hear an explanation of the enter-

prize, as already in beneficent operation. The basis of the plan is the substitution of hand labor for machine in the sawing and splitting of wood. This scheme for affording relief is not put forth as a panacea for the evils poverty is heir to; it does not promise the speedy or the final disappearance of the poor as a class, the inevitably poor whom, in the words of the Saviour, "ye have always with you." And yet, the plan does bid fair to vindicate the wisdom of its author, for so far as it goes, it will supply the want of those ready to perish, without discouraging their self-dependence or destroying their self-respect; it will lessen misery without lowering manhood.

#### THE SEWING SCHOOL,

named last in order, we are almost inclined, after the Scripture injunction, to regard as first in importance and honor. The growth of the school, steady from the outset, has been within the past year quite marvelous, and its beneficent management is universally remarked and admired. Since January last, the Saturday sessions have been held in the Bethlehem Sunday-School room, the use of which is the very generous gift of Mr. G. A. Brett. The school comprised at the close of the season in May last, forty classes and two hundred scholars. Fifty ladies were then engaged in the work of management and instruction; a work the least important result of which is the immediate and apparent blessing conferred on the children; for who can doubt that, while their deft fingers are trained, enduring affections for the good and true are developed? The attendance on the opening day this month, as compared with that of last year, was more than doubled; and before the close of this year of grace 1877, applicants for admission will be turned away for lack of room. There is, however, a more immediate and a distressing want. It is that of teachers. But does it need more than the mere announcement to incline, this very week, a score more of earnest workers to a field of opportunity in which the hand and heart of woman can do so much to better the prospects of the less fortunate of her sex? If any reached by this report are prompted to engage in this Christian service, but are unable to attend the sessions personally, they are kindly reminded that cloth in large or small quantity, and books for the library, would be acceptable as donations, and would do much to increase the efficiency of the school.

I have forborne to name the officers and teachers of the sewing-school, or of the night-school, simply in deference to their wishes; but I do in my heart, as do all who know them and their patient service of sacrifice and love, honor them as followers of Him who gave his life for the many.

You have learned from

#### THE TREASURER'S REPORT,

that of the \$6000 and upward generously placed to his credit only about \$3500 has been expended in the prosecution of the permanent enterprises of the Union, about \$1500 having been absorbed in the great exigency immediately following the theatre calamity. In a year during which, as compared with the previous ten years, business was almost at its lowest ebb, the largest amount of money was collected, and that with the least pressure. In view of this evidence, we do not deem it rash to assure and to congratulate you that the Union for Christian work is rapidly gaining in favor with this community.

Good friends, you have learned by this time what the Union has attempted during the past year. What has been actually accomplished through your liberality toward ameliorating the condition of certain classes in this great city, is mainly hidden from the sight of man. Assuming, however, that you are well satisfied with even the apparent returns which your investments have thus yielded, we bespeak from you for the administration that shall follow us, the exercise of your wonted liberality—a liberality which has enabled each succeeding Board of Managers to enter whatever door of opportunity has been opened by the hand of Providence.

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After Pres. Foster's Report, Mr. SETH LOW was introduced, and spoke substantially as follows: He said he desired to refer particularly to the effort of the Union to afford relief for men who were without work, but who were willing to work. It was a painful thing to be accosted by a man in the street with the plea that he would work if he could, but could not get work to do. But the giving of money or value, without return, in such cases, was an injury to the man and to the interests of society. The problem of thus providing such employment was a difficult one to solve. They felt they could only accomplish it by superseding hand labor for machinery. They must

find employment for unskilled labor. They had tried to solve the question by providing work in the way of sawing and splitting wood. They might injure the tools a little, but they could not hurt the wood very much. An arrangement was made with Mr. W. T. Johnson, whereby he allowed men to saw and split wood in his yard—he paying the Union what it would cost him to cut the same amount of wood by the steam power which he used in his own business, and the Union paying them what it chose. This arrangement had been in operation for five weeks, and in that time 59 men had been at work under the auspices of the Union, which provided the tools and a man to overlook the work. The Union paid at the rate of \$2 per cord, which, by dealers, was considered a far price for hand labor. The arrangement was made available to every one in the city, in this way. If a man applied for help he was provided with a ticket, directing that —— be allowed to cut wood to the value of, say, 50 cents; and when he had done the work he presented the ticket to the Union at the rooms, and received the money. The giver of the ticket bound himself to redeem the ticket when presented. If the man did the work, he received the money to which he was entitled. If he did not, an unworthy man was not helped. Thus far the arrangement had only been made with one yard, but the Union hoped to make it with other yards. Men had accepted the tickets, done the work and then gone away, and had come back again for more work. But as the Union only received from Mr. Johnson what it would cost him to do the work by steam, while the Union paid them \$2 per cord and provided the tools, in this way the Union paid out a little more than half as much as was received. This might be considered a bad financial operation, but Mr. Low said he had no fears under that head; for almost every one gave something in charity, and if they would turn the stream of their benevolence in the direction the Union indicated, it would not fail.

PROFESSOR FOSTER then introduced Rev. Dr. Putnam, who said he had had some of the tickets, and had been very much amused in his experience with them. He feared that some of the men to whom he had given them had not gone to the yard at all. It was evidently not the sort of aid they wanted. One able-bodied man to whom he had thus offered fifty cents' worth of work, and who pretended to be in great need, at once declined the little slip of paper and beat a hasty retreat, saying he had

had that thing presented to him before. He felt sure that the same method, if generally adopted, would have the effect to drive this unworthy class of beggars out of Brooklyn.

Dr. Putnam said further that he thought the Union should enlarge in various ways its business of furnishing work for all who have no work to do, but who yet are willing and anxious to work. He referred to the success of the Labor Bureau of the Christian Union in Boston, and thought that here, as there, something should be done for needy women as well as needy men. He condemned the practice of business men and of families who so readily give money and clothing and other valuables to unprincipled applicants, only to get rid of such an unwelcome presence, or being moved to a false sympathy by the tales of woe which they hear. It is notorious that many of these fawning, canting creatures, with sad countenance and seedy garments, often succeed in getting ten, twenty, or thirty dollars a day from our merchants, only to appear well-dressed and full-fledged up-town at night, to spend their gains in debauchery and sin; then the next morning to don their threadbare clothes and resume once more their mournful rounds with like results. The speaker said that ministers and churches were very guilty in this habit of indiscriminate giving. Alluding to the class of people who go from one church to another and drain their living from each with which they become connected, he told the story of one family who within a short time joined three churches of different denominations here in Brooklyn, being baptized and becoming communicants in each, and thus gaining all the more sympathy and assistance from each as well. The doctor said he could not understand the total depravity of those who voted for bad men for office when good men were the opposing candidates, neither could he understand the moral perversity of men who, instead of distributing their charities through legitimate and worthy channels, wasted their money in such ways as he described. In conclusion he complimented heartily Prof. Foster's Report, and expressed his great satisfaction at the steadily growing usefulness of the Union. No institution in the city was more deserving the confidence and support of the people. More and more it has sought to work in practical directions, and so unite all classes, sects, and parties in these blessed labors. As for Prof. Foster, the speaker hoped he would continue President forever.

HON. RIPLEY ROPES was then called upon. He said that if Dr. Putnam will study politics instead of total depravity—

Dr. Putnam—Same thing.

Mr. Ropes continuing—He will find out the source of difficulty to which he alludes.

Mr. Ropes said, further, that he desired to express his continued interest and belief in the work of the Union. It was a wonderful institution in the labors, especially among the children, who will be the men and women of the future. It was surprising to see how its work broadened and increased each year, and comparatively with less money. He alluded to the labor tickets, and said he wished the names and residences of the applicants endorsed thereon; and in that way they would be known. As to indiscriminate alms-giving, Mr. Ropes said he considered it a great wrong and evil. These people should be followed beyond the application, else they will go to the public charities and defeat the ends which should be sought.

Mr. Ropes next alluded to the abuse of the county outdoor relief. He said he would tell them stories of such abuses, which would arouse a storm of indignation. There was one section of the city last winter where, out of thirty-seven tons of coal given out, twenty-seven were given to people who paid taxes.

Professor Foster said it was proposed to inaugurate a system of free lectures for those who frequent the rooms of the Union, at No. 531 Fulton street. Two or three gentlemen had already offered their services, and it was thought that the effort should be made, as it would cost very little.

REV. J. W. CHADWICK was called on by the President to make a few remarks upon a course of free popular scientific lectures, to which allusion had just been made. Mr. Chadwick before proceeding to his special subject, referred to the past history of the Union. It was a very sickly child and nearly died of various ailments, the worst of which was "a free platform" upon which many said their *little* say, but not much was said that can be now remembered. The happy fortune of the Union, now so prosperous and useful, was another proof that vital institutions cannot be manufactured all at once, but must grow by slow processes of learning and relearning. A disunion for rash and ill-considered *talk* had grown at length into a union for systematic, well-considered *work*.

Mr. Chadwick spoke of the meeting as the most unsentimental he had ever attended, and therefore the most hopeful. A crusade had been preached against indiscriminate alms-giving and the audience had seemed to sympathize with the speakers; and this was ominous of better times to come, Dr. Holmes has said, "The supreme self-indulgence is to submit the will to a spiritual director." Indiscriminate almsgiving is another form of self-indulgence hardly less disgraceful. To save our own feelings, we run the risk of pauperizing a fellow-being. The time will come, and ought to come, when every such act of self-indulgence will be punished as a crime against society.

As to the lecture-project, Mr. Chadwick wished that the lectures might not be exactly free. He was more and more convinced that what men got for nothing, they valued little. Until very recently, most popular science had been "science falsely so called." It had been popular fibbing and romancing. But now popular scientific books were being written by scientific men of the first rank, and there was no reason why men of this rank should not give popular scientific lectures. The truth was none too good for the most ignorant. I am sure, said Mr. Chadwick, that if Prof. Foster manages the lectures, they will be true as well as popular.

# UNION FOR CHRISTIAN WORK.

Treasurer's Annual Statement for Year ending November 24th, 1878.

## RECEIPTS.

|                                               |            |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------|
| From Balance as per last Statement.....       | \$156 57   |
| " Subscriptions .....                         | 4,801 46   |
| " Annual Dues.....                            | 22 00      |
| " Proceeds Prof. R. R. Raymond's Reading..    | 173 25     |
| " " Prof. Putnam's Lecture.....               | 84 00      |
| " Groceries, etc., sold from Guild Department | 87 77      |
| " Cash profit Boot and Shoe Department....    | 600 00     |
| " Rent of Rooms.....                          | 32 00      |
| " Interest Brooklyn Trust Co.....             | 20 40      |
| " Sale of old material.....                   | 32 33      |
| Total Receipts.....                           | \$6,009 78 |

From the Children of the Sunday-School of the Church of the Saviour, as a nucleus for a fund to erect a permanent building for this Institution. Building Fund.....

\$8 48

## EXPENDITURES.

|                                           |          |
|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| For Rent of Rooms.....                    | \$900 00 |
| " Salaries.....                           | 1,400 00 |
| " Papers and Periodicals.....             | 248 69   |
| " Printing and Advertising.....           | 89 19    |
| " Class Materials.....                    | 84 76    |
| " Gas and Fuel.....                       | 222 32   |
| " Repairs and Furnishings.....            | 395 58   |
| " Expenses of Guild Department.....       | 722 84   |
| " Trustees of Brooklyn Calamity Fund..... | 1,200 00 |
| " Expenses Prof. Putnam's Lecture.....    | 90 50    |
| " " Sewing School.....                    | 100 00   |
| " Sundries.....                           | 13 15    |

Total Disbursements.....\$5,467 03  
Balance in Treasury..... 542 75

\$6,009 78

BROOKLYN, November 25th, 1877.

ISAAC H. CARV, JR., *Treasurer.*

## LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS

FOR YEAR ENDING NOV. 14, 1877.

|                                                       |          |                                |         |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|---------|
| A. A. Low.....                                        | \$500 00 | P. P. Foote.....               | \$25 00 |
| A. Aug. Low.....                                      | 225 00   | Wm. C. Gardner.....            | 25 00   |
| Mrs. Wm. H. Cary.....                                 | 200 00   | D. B. Halsted.....             | 25 00   |
| Alex. M. White.....                                   | 200 00   | H. R. Hough.....               | 25 00   |
| Church of the Savior, Rev. Dr.<br>Putnam.....         | 186 12   | Samuel Harding.....            | 25 00   |
| Rev. Dr. Bellow's Church,<br>N. Y.....                | 167 53   | Mrs. Sam'l Harding.....        | 25 00   |
| E. H. R. Lyman.....                                   | 150 00   | W. B. Kendall.....             | 25 00   |
| James S. Noyes.....                                   | 150 00   | Seth Low.....                  | 25 00   |
| Ripley Ropes.....                                     | 150 00   | R. H. Manning.....             | 25 00   |
| Geo. B. Grannis.....                                  | 125 00   | Harry Putnam.....              | 25 00   |
| Robert Thallon.....                                   | 125 00   | D. C. Robbins.....             | 25 00   |
| Rev. J. W. Chadwick's Church                          | 121 12   | Thos. F. Smith.....            | 25 00   |
| Nathaniel H. Cary.....                                | 110 00   | Alfred Thompson.....           | 25 00   |
| Arthur W. Benson.....                                 | 100 00   | Fritz Vietor.....              | 25 00   |
| H. B. Claflin.....                                    | 100 00   | J. F. Whiting.....             | 25 00   |
| H. D. Polhemus.....                                   | 100 00   | S. V. Lowell.....              | 20 00   |
| Eli Robbins.....                                      | 100 00   | Geo. M. Olcott.....            | 20 00   |
| Sunday School, Church of the<br>Savior.....           | 88 00    | Thos. Prosser.....             | 15 00   |
| Geo. B. Archer.....                                   | 75 00    | Wm. C. Howard.....             | 15 00   |
| J. P. Robinson.....                                   | 75 00    | E. H. Arnold.....              | 15 00   |
| Geo. T. Clark.....                                    | 70 00    | Mrs. G. A. Brett.....          | 12 50   |
| Primary Department Public<br>School No. 11.....       | 58 02    | Wm. Meldrum.....               | 12 00   |
| Mrs. B. L. Benedict.....                              | 50 00    | Boys of Children's Aid Society | 10 92   |
| J. W. Frothingham.....                                | 50 00    | M. Aalholm.....                | 10 00   |
| J. O. Low.....                                        | 50 00    | Mrs. Burnham.....              | 10 00   |
| R. W. Ropes.....                                      | 50 00    | S. E. Cruger.....              | 10 00   |
| Hon. F. A. Schroeder (Mayor)                          | 50 00    | Miss Alice B. Cary.....        | 10 00   |
| Alfred T. White.....                                  | 50 00    | Thos. L. Clark.....            | 10 00   |
| Receipts one day, Turkish<br>Bath, Dr. C. H. Shepard. | 40 00    | H. E. Dodge.....               | 10 00   |
| J. R. Blossom.....                                    | 35 00    | B. F. Delano.....              | 10 00   |
| J. W. Stearns.....                                    | 35 00    | E. B. Hyde.....                | 10 00   |
| D. G. Cartwright.....                                 | 30 00    | Thos. W. Jenkins.....          | 10 00   |
| Mrs. Geo. S. Cary.....                                | 30 00    | S. W. Johnson.....             | 10 00   |
| " N. G. Carman Jr.....                                | 30 00    | James Littlejohn.....          | 10 00   |
| Wm. P. Beale.....                                     | 25 00    | Duncan Littlejohn.....         | 10 00   |
| Geo. C. Brackett.....                                 | 25 00    | J. G. Latimer.....             | 10 00   |
| Mrs. Geo. T. Clarke.....                              | 25 00    | Mrs. W. Langford.....          | 10 00   |
| Isaac H. Cary, Jr.....                                | 25 00    | H. S. Manning.....             | 10 00   |
| E. A. Doty.....                                       | 25 00    | B. F. Munroe.....              | 10 00   |
| Robert Foster.....                                    | 25 00    | John Norton, Jr.....           | 10 00   |
|                                                       |          | S. B. Noyes.....               | 10 00   |
|                                                       |          | Miss N.....                    | 10 00   |
|                                                       |          | Wm. T. Pratt.....              | 10 00   |
|                                                       |          | A. A. Raven.....               | 10 00   |
|                                                       |          | Mrs. B. F. Seaver.....         | 10 00   |

|                                          |         |                              |        |
|------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|--------|
| Rev. Dr. R. S. Storrs.....               | \$10 00 | J. S. T. Stranahan.....      | \$5 00 |
| Robt. Yellowlee.....                     | 10 00   | V. H. Seaman .....           | 5 00   |
| Eighth Ward Mission, Roches-<br>ter..... | 10 00   | Josiah T. Tubby.....         | 5 00   |
| E. L. Molineaux.....                     | 7 50    | Miss S. F. Thompson.....     | 5 00   |
| Mrs. H. L. Ferris.....                   | 7 00    | Wm. Tuckerman .....          | 5 00   |
| Miss Marion Hicks.....                   | 6 00    | E. M. Whiting.....           | 5 00   |
| Miss R. Moran .....                      | 6 00    | H. C. W.....                 | 5 00   |
| R. S.....                                | 6 00    | Brooklynite in Hartford..... | 5 00   |
| J. Aalholm .....                         | 5 00    | E. M. Switzer.....           | 5 00   |
| E. R. B.....                             | 5 00    | Rev. H. R. Nye.....          | 5 00   |
| Nelson G. Carman, Jr.....                | 5 00    | J. M. Ham.....               | 5 00   |
| J. F. Desmazes.....                      | 5 00    | L. A. Roberts.....           | 5 00   |
| Clarence Dunning.....                    | 5 00    | Chas. H. Jewett.....         | 5 00   |
| Mrs. J. W. Emery.....                    | 5 00    | Employés at 444 Water St.... | 3 50   |
| N. I. E.....                             | 5 00    | P. Shaw. ....                | 3 00   |
| A. Howe.....                             | 5 00    | Miss E. L. Clark.....        | 2 00   |
| Wm. A. Heydecker.....                    | 5 00    | F. O. Harris.....            | 2 00   |
| Miss A. C. Haviland.....                 | 5 00    | J. N. Partridge.....         | 2 00   |
| S. B. Jones.....                         | 5 00    | Chas. Samuel.....            | 2 00   |
| Andrew Jacobs.....                       | 5 00    | Mrs. S. W. Smith.....        | 2 00   |
| C. & R. Loeser.....                      | 5 00    | Miss M. A. Tuckerman.....    | 2 00   |
| J. R. Maxwell.....                       | 5 00    | Lady.....                    | 1 25   |
| H. W. Maxwell.....                       | 5 00    | Catskill.....                | 1 00   |
| Dr. S. H. Orton .....                    | 5 00    | Calamity.....                | 1 00   |
| Mrs. S. H. Orton.....                    | 5 00    | Sympathizer.....             | 1 00   |
| Mrs A. P. Putnam .....                   | 5 00    | Annie Lewis.....             | 1 00   |
| Nath. Putnam.....                        | 5 00    | Cash.....                    | 4 00   |
| Geo. W. Pympton.....                     | 5 00    |                              |        |
| Miss S. A. Russell.....                  | 5 00    |                              |        |

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\$4,801 46

## LIFE MEMBERS.

The payment of twenty-five dollars will constitute any person a Life Member of the Union.

The names of Life Members added since the last publication are as follows:

MRS. B. I. BENEDICT.  
D. G. CARTWRIGHT.  
P. P. FOOTE.  
GEO. B. GRANNISS.  
SIDNEY V. LOWELL.  
A. AUG. LOW.  
H. D. POLHEMUS.  
HON. F. A. SCHROEDER  
FRITZ VIETOR.

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Total,                                | 9          |
| Number of those previously published, | <u>153</u> |
| Total number of Life Members,         | 162        |

# STANDING COMMITTEES,

1877-78.

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## *Finance.*

D. B. HALSTEAD,  
JOSEPH LYMAN,  
SETH LOW.

## *Executive.*

J. R. BLOSSOM,  
A. W. HUMPHREYS,  
I. H. CARY, JR.

## *Employment.*

SETH LOW,  
REV. A. P. PUTNAM,  
E. W. CROWELL.

## *Lectures and Addresses.*

REV. A. P. PUTNAM,  
J. W. STEARNS,  
S. H. CAMP.

## *Library and Reading-Room.*

I. H. CARY, JR.,  
W. C. GARDNER,  
J. W. STEARNS.

## *Benevolence.*

A. W. HUMPHREYS,  
I. H. CARY, JR.,  
H. R. PUTNAM.

## *Instruction and Amusements.*

SYLVESTER SWAIN,  
REV. S. H. CAMP,  
W. C. GARDNER.





